

tion were counted 5–6 *Pachycephala pectoralis*, including two juveniles, three *Myiagra vanikorensis*, including one juvenile, three *Rhipidura rufifrons*, two *Mayrornis schistaceus* and two *Myzomela cardinalis*, one a juvenile. Two and three *Lalage maculosa* were not associated with either party. Total number of individuals seen was 20–21.

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On the Red-headed Quelea, *Quelea erythropus* (Hartlaub) in Zambia

by A. J. TREE

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Distribution. Scattered records from all provinces north of about 14° S., except on the Kafue where recorded to at least 16° 45' S. and from Kalabo, in Barotseland, at 15° 00' S. Appears to be confined to water during the breeding season, most records coming from the upper Zambesi, Kabompo and Kafue Rivers, Mweru Marsh and Lake Tanganyika, and records from other localities close to the Luapula and Chambeshi Rivers from which they had probably wandered. Recorded only once from the Luangwa River.

Status on the Kafue River. Virtually all my observations have been made on the Kafue though I think that most comments from there would apply to the Zambian population as a whole.

Appears to be very common from near the south-east corner of the Kafue National Park at 16° 45' S., 26° 08' E. upstream as far as the swamps and floodplains in the area of the Kafue/Luswishi confluence (13° 55' S., 27° 25' E.) with lesser numbers to Ndubeni (13° 24' S., 27° 49' E.) and very few on the Copperbelt, in fact is probably only on passage there. Flocks of up to 300 have been noted at Ndubeni in January and flocks of up to 400 totalling some thousands along the Kafue between Mswebi (14° 24' S., 27° 42' E.) and the Kafue/Luswishi confluence in late January and February. The large numbers were localised, however, to Mswebi, the Kafue/Lukanga confluence (14° 22' S., 27° 11' E.), Supuni Ferry and about five miles upstream (14° 18' S., 27° 16/21' E.), and the Kafue/Luswishi confluence together with the adjoining Chanya Swamp.

Breeding. Few definite breeding records have been published to date, see Benson (1956) for breeding at Mpulungu on Lake Tanganyika, and Benson and White (1959) for breeding at the southern extremities of its range on the Kafue.

On the 4th February, 1961, at Kasha in the Kafue National Park

(16° 15' S., 25° 53' E.) J. B. Shenton found a colony of some 250 nests in a patch of sedge by a pond, some nests containing complete, partially incubated clutches of as many as four eggs. Other nests were still being built. R. C. Hart collected ♂♂ in breeding dress, with testes fully developed, at Kalabo in December and January, these now being in the Livingstone Museum.

In February, 1965, I found two colonies on the Kafue—a fairly large colony at Mswebi in a very extensive reed bed of *Phragmites*, and the other in a similar, though smaller, reed bed about 1½ miles up the Lukanga River from its confluence with the Kafue. The colony at Mswebi was inaccessible but could be watched from the top of an ant-hill close by on the edge of some woodland. In fact there were probably several small colonies in the one reed bed. The first young were recorded on the wing on the 14th February but mostly from about the 20th. The colony was deserted by about the 25th when all the young had left the nest. Thus eggs probably laid during the period 20th/30th January.

The Lukanga colony was discovered on the 17th February but only a few nests were accessible, a couple of which had been freshly deserted, the young still hanging around soliciting food from their parents (both sexes taking part in feeding), and one nest held two fully fledged young just about to leave. The young had evidently all fledged and the colony deserted by about the 25th February.

In 1964 many young birds were noted on the wing by the 20th February at Ndubeni but no breeding colony was discovered.

From banding the percentage of ♀♀ to ♂♂ appeared in the ratio of about 3 : 1.

Movements. In all, from Zambia, there are some 57 specimens, collected in the period 16th September–15th April, in the National Museum, Bulawayo, and the Livingstone Museum. From my own records on the Kafue I find that the first birds arrive at the end of October, though the main numbers do not arrive till late December and early January. The main numbers appear to have left by the end of March with one record for the 8th April, 1965, from Kyimbwe Salt Pan (13° 04' S., 25° 57' E.)—a red-headed ♂; and one caught at Ndubeni on the 20th May, 1965—probably an immature. This last record can probably be considered as exceptional. There are, however, records from Mwinilunga District in the extreme north-west of N.W. Province and from Lake Tanganyika as late as mid-April. The September records were of birds collected by Benson at Salujinga (10° 58' S., 24° 07' E.) on the 17th and 19th, and from Kawambwa, in Luapula Province, on the 16th. Even though ♂♂ are only in red-headed breeding dress from about November to April, it is unlikely that they have been overlooked in the intervening period, especially as I have been banding on the Kafue throughout the year since 1962.

After the breeding colonies have been deserted there appears to be a drift upstream on the Kafue. On the 25th February, 1965, the largest concentrations were on the stretch past Supuni Ferry but by the 27th the largest numbers were to be found on the Chibwenda Plain, just below Chilenga (14° 06' S., 27° 25' E.). By this time there were very few noted downstream of Supuni Ferry. Small parties were seen continuously heading upstream.

Migration would be northwards, possibly into the Congo or to Kenya and Tanzania

Moult. The ♂♂ start moulting into breeding dress from about mid-November and some have completed it by mid-December though many not until mid-January and the odd ones up until early February. However, Benson collected a ♂ with red head as early as 22nd October at Kabompo. The complete moult of both sexes probably takes place in the latter half of April till mid-June, as in the Red-billed Quelea (*Quelea quelea*), and the immatures during the period latter half of May to about mid-July.

<i>Measurements:</i>	<i>Wing</i>	<i>Bill</i>	<i>Tarsus</i>	<i>Tail</i>
♂♂ (123)	61-67	14-16	18.5-21	31-39
♀♀ (378)	57-65	13.5-15.5	17.5-20	30-36

Measurements are in millimetres, the wing measurements are minimum chord and the bill is measured to the skull.

Some 93 juveniles have been banded but their measurements have not been taken into consideration.

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Pattern of dispersion of the White Wagtail and other birds outside the breeding season

by K. E. L. SIMMONS

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These notes on the White Wagtail *Motacilla a. alba* Linn. in winter quarters in Egypt are based on observations made during the winter of 1949-50, mainly in the Fayid district (Canal Zone) and at Adabiya (Gulf of Suez). They were originally drafted in 1950 and are now discussed in the light of recent work on avian social systems, especially that of Crook (1965).

Arrival and departure GENERAL

The White Wagtail is an abundant winter visitor to Egypt and Sinai (Meinertzhagen 1930). In 1949, passage birds were first seen in the Fayid district from 22nd September onwards, passing over singly or in small parties. The first bird was seen on the ground in the native cultivation near the Great Bitter Lake on 2nd October and in a nursery garden near the Sweet Water Canal on 22nd October. From then on, the species was common and resident in the area. At Adabiya, the first White Wagtail was seen on the ground on 19th October and all the resident birds (see below) were established by the end of the month.

Departure in the spring was not closely followed but took place in March and early April 1950. The last bird was recorded at Adabiya on 5th April.

Habitat

In Lower Egypt, the wintering White Wagtails are found in a variety of habitats, both rural and urban, often though not exclusively near water, wherever the ground is clear enough for them to forage. The